

# *The Parnell Catechism.*

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## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON THE GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND BILL.

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### CORRUPTION AND TREACHERY.

#### QUESTION.

What are the nature and objects of the so-called Home Rule Bill recommended to the Irish people by Mr. Parnell and the "United Ireland" journal?

But does not the bill say that "the Irish Legislative body shall make laws for the 'peace, order, and good government of Ireland,'" and what more can an Irishman want?

But if the bill establishes an Irish Legislature to make laws for the "government of Ireland," how can this be a betrayal of the Irish people?

Will the so-called Irish Legislature be allowed to raise volunteers for national defence?

#### ANSWER.

Its nature is corruption and treachery, and its object is the permanent suppression of Irish Nationality in return for the admission of the Parnellite traitors to the pension list and salary list of the British Crown in Ireland.

The bill says so, indeed, in its opening clauses, but this is only done to delude and deceive. It is the Judas' Kiss by which the traitors seek to betray the Irish people.

Because an Irish Legislature is only established in name in the first clauses, and all the rest of the bill takes back or still further nullifies every power of self-government and every right of nationality.

No, this is expressly forbidden.

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Seeing the ruinous condition of Irish trade and commerce, can laws be made for their protection and encouragement?

No, this also is expressly forbidden. Irish trade and commerce remain under the British Government.

## RUIN OF IRISH INTERESTS.

But will not the so-called Irish Legislature have any power to secure justice for Irish interests in treaties with foreign States, or even with the colonies of the British Empire?

No, this is also expressly forbidden. All treaties "made or hereafter to be made," remain in the exclusive control of the British Government.

But surely, the proposed Irish Legislative Body will be entitled to secure protection for Irish inventions which Irish commercial and industrial ability may have discovered in Ireland itself?

No; this also is expressly forbidden. No Irish "Patent Rights or other rights to the use or profit of any Works or Inventions" shall be valid even in Ireland, except by the permission of the British Government.

But then every possibility of making any improvement of any kind which might defeat English competition will remain in the hands of the English alone?

Just so; even the genius of Irish Invention is prohibited by this infamous measure.

Will the proposed Irish Legislature have any power over the Customs and Excise?

No, the proposed Irish Legislature is expressly forbidden to have any such power.

Do you mean to say that if the British Government continues in the future as in the past to shape the Customs and Excise duties so as to encourage British industries and to crush and overburthen Irish industries, the proposed Irish Legislature will have no power?

No power whatever. The Customs duties will be settled by England alone. No matter how much, for instance, Irish spirits may be overtaxed and British beer may be undertaxed, the Irish Legislature will be forbidden to interfere.

But will there be no possible protection for Irish commercial and manufacturing interests. If, for instance, any foreign state, or England itself, were to prohibit the import and sale of Irish goods, of Irish linen, for example, or Irish tweeds, could the proposed Irish Legislature do nothing?

Can you tell me if the present industrial and commercial situation of England is such as to make it likely that English mercantile opinion will be more inclined to favour Irish competition than formerly?

But all this is monstrous and frightful. Surely there is some equivalent or some compensation?

But do you tell me that Irishmen can be so degraded as to accept large salaries and paid situations in a Government of nominal Home Rule, and to live in luxury as the slaves of England at the expense of their cheated and deluded countrymen?

It could do nothing whatever. No matter how gross the injustice, no amendment and no defence could be made except by the consent and authority of the British Parliament.

Quite the contrary. The manufacturing and industrial condition of England is already very severely pressed by foreign competition, and an influential "Fair Trade" Party is even calling out for measures to protect England against foreign competition. You may be sure that the British Parliament will not open to Irish industry a single market which can be reserved for English use and profit.

Oh yes. There is fine compensation. In return for betraying their country the Parnellite traitors will have all the best situations under the British crown in Ireland, from the Chief Secretaryship, the Lord Chancellorship, and even the Lord Lieutenancy, down. There will be a finer Black List than even Castlereagh established. The Parnellites who take the place of Lord Spencer and Mr. Trevelyan will have their thousands of pounds a year, and there is not an "organiser" from T. Plutarch O'Connor down who will not have something snug. There will be no more need to send round the hat or to collect the American dollars to the tune of "The Harp without the Crown."

Read "United Ireland" if you have any doubt as to the readiness of the renegades to live on their countrymen as officials of the British Crown. It is not for nothing that the Parnellites have been getting called to the bar in such numbers. "United Ireland" is in ecstasy over fat places which will come to its editorial staff.



## "UNITED IRELAND'S" EXPECTATIONS.

You do not mean to say that "United Ireland" is already looking forward to judicial salaries and situations?

THIS IS FRIGHTFUL AND INFAMOUS INDEED. I WONDER HOW SUCH A PAPER CAN DARE TO CALL ITSELF "UNITED IRELAND."

HOW MUCH ARE THE LEADING PARNELLITES LIKELY TO GET FOR ESTABLISHING NOMINAL HOME RULE?

Read its article on the "Irish Parliament of the future" in its issue of April 17th, if you have any doubt. "The Minister responsible to the Irish Parliament," it writes with rapture, "would have the nomination of the Lord Chancellor, who would nominate the judges . . . the nomination of all county court judges, magistrates, crown officials, and minor officers of justice would also be within the competence of the Irish Legislature." Are you satisfied?

Oh, that is easy. "United Ireland" used to mean an Ireland united in solemn league and covenant for the recovery and defence of national independence. "United Ireland" with the Parnellites means, according to the Parnell-Gladstone treaty, an enslaved and plundered Ireland "united" for ever to English tyranny, as the West Indian negro was "united" to the slave-driver who robbed him of his liberty and labour, and flogged him if he grumbled at the arrangement.

Such distinguished officials as Ministers, Lord Chancellors, and Chief Commissioners can certainly expect from £3,000 to £5,000 a year. Besides, they will be able to dispense valuable patronage among their dependents and relatives. The list of placemen whom Grattan denounced and whom Castlereagh rewarded was nothing to the new black list of renegades.

But surely there must be some compensation? At least, Ireland will be released from all further payments to the British Empire in return for the abandonment of the national struggle and the surrender of the national rights?

Do you mean to say that Ireland is to pay several millions of Irish taxation every year to the British Empire and is to have no corresponding control and representation?

Released from all further payments to the Empire!! On the contrary, she is to pay her full quota to the Imperial Treasury, and the only difference in the future will be that, whereas Ireland used to have the right to send 100 representatives who could often punish severely the misapplication of the money, Mr. Parnell and Mr. Gladstone have agreed that she is not even to have this power.

Certainly. Monstrous and odious as it appears, this is precisely the essence of the Parnell-Gladstone bargain. It is for giving up the Irish Representation which could obstruct Imperial Policy, and for continuing the Imperial Taxation of Ireland which is so welcome to the Imperial Exchequer, and the Parnellites have got their tremendous bribe of all the best Government situations in Ireland. Besides, the "United Ireland" gang have their special reasons for desiring the future exclusion of Irish members from the Imperial Parliament.

## WHY THE MEMBERS ARE EXCLUDED.

What is this special reason?

But taxation without representation is tyranny, and not only justifies but necessitates Armed Resistance? Was not the tea emptied into Boston harbour in defiance of such tyranny? Did not Hampden face a hero's death against the Ship-money?

Because it renders impossible the revival by others of an Active Policy which would be so terrible a condemnation of their Traitorous Capitulation.

My dear sir, it is evident you do not belong to the select circle of "United Ireland." Washington-Parnell prefers to be Minister of the Crown on a fat salary. That will be more profitable than Paving Stones. Hampden-Healy thinks the Lord Chancellorship the best form of independence.

## THE WAR TRIBUTE.

Then England continues to take the best part of the Irish Revenues, and can apply them for any purpose, even for making war upon a nation friendly to Ireland, and Ireland cannot prevent it ?

But would an enemy of England be justified in bombarding the Irish towns, in sinking and burning Irish shipping, in stopping up and destroying Irish harbours and rivermouths when it was known that Ireland had no control over the Imperial Policy of England ?

There can be no denial. If we pay for England's Armies, we must suffer for England's Wars. Are you quite sure that our contribution to the Imperial Treasury is a fixed charge in peace as well as war ?

Yes, and the coasts of Ireland, the Irish seaport towns and commercial places, may be ravaged by any enemy whom England chooses to provoke—France, Russia, or the United States; and Ireland will only have the privilege of paying her regular contribution to the Imperial Army and Navy.

Ireland would be paying between £4,000,000 & £5,000,000 a year to the Imperial Army and Constabulary alone. If Irishmen choose to pay blindly for any war England liked to wage, why should the Blind Slaves of England be respected by the enemies of the British Empire ?

Quite so. So says the Parnell-Gladstone Bill. In war, indeed, we have a further distinction conferred upon us.

## INSULT TO INJURY.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN ?

By Clause 18 it is graciously provided that "if Her Majesty declares that a state of war exists, and is pleased to signify such declaration to the Irish Legislative Body by speech or message, it shall be lawful for the Irish Legislature to appropriate a further sum out of the Consolidated Fund of Ireland in aid of the Army or Navy or other measures Her Majesty might take for the prosecution of the war, and to provide and raise money for the purpose ; and all moneys so provided and raised shall be paid into the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom."

But this is adding insult to injury. We are to be graciously **permitted** to raise additional taxation to **support** wars over which we are to have no control.

**Treaty ! Who dares to call this infamous instrument of degrading serfdom a treaty ?**

Why, this is worse than the Treaty at Limerick Stone. That was a treaty of honour on our side. It was the English who brought the dishonour. **But this infamy, it is Irishmen who have made it what it is.** God of Battles ! Is there more to tell ?

My dear sir, again I beg you to calm yourself. You should not speak like that of a Parnell-Gladstone Treaty.

My dear sir, if you will only read your "United Ireland" you will find it called "the International Treaty."

Only a couple of points. When the Annual Bloodsucking of the Foreign Empire has been satisfied, there will remain perhaps—even "United Ireland" admits there may be not so much after the Imperial Harpies—perhaps £400,000. **Ireland will not have as many tens as England will have hundreds of pounds of Irish Taxation.** Still, £400,000, though a mockery of the wants of a nation, can fatten a good many hundred traitors in big and small situations under the Crown. Besides, with the permission of the British Crown, "signified through the Lord Lieutenant," the "Irish Legislative Body" can lay on additional taxation on the points not monopolised by England—the Income Tax, for instance.

## FLAYING THE TAXPAYER.

**WHAT IS THE AVERAGE INCOME PER HEAD OF THE IRISH PEOPLE ?**

The latest statistics of the results of British rule show an average of under £15 a year per head for the population of Ireland. This is what the "United Ireland" hacks mean by saying that "the Irish Legislature will have the **raising and spending of Income Tax.**" **Raising and spending ! Skinning and flaying rather.**



## IRELAND UNDER THE FEET OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL.

But suppose that by possibility there were a majority in the so-called Legislative Body, who would deny **the right of England to push her merciless exactions to such lengths?**

My dear sir, that is all looked after. There is absolutely no power left on any point whatever to the Parnell-Gladstone "Parliament." By clause 25 of the Bill absolute power is reserved to the English Privy Council to give a final decision upon every pretension of the Irish Legislative Body. "The decision of her Majesty in Council shall be final, and a provision of any Act which is so decided to be in excess of the powers of the Irish Legislature shall be void." To cap the climax, **no amendment can ever be made in this Bill "except with the consent of the Imperial Parliament."** The fetters and handcuffs are perfect, not a link wanting.

Perhaps you do not care to know the extraordinary composition of this Sham Parliament?

No, no. Certainly not. Who cares what the humbug, the vile fraud, is like. There is one thing which I know now and understand.

What is that?

I know why the Tories, stupid as they look, won't support this Bill.

Why won't the Tories support this Bill?

Because they see it is so monstrous that if it were passed it would justify the Irish in the eyes of the world in rising in universal insurrection, and festooning the lamp-posts of Dublin with the infamous accomplices of such tyranny. The sordid slaves. How they have duped the people! How they have drained the pockets of the trusting brothers beyond the Atlantic!

## THE AMERICAN MONEY ?

Aye. That was the worst of it. The American Money rendered resistance impossible, flooded the country with lying hacks like the "United Ireland" scribes, muzzled the Irish Confederation of Great Britain, rendered opposition at the elections powerless, subsidized servile nominees in every constituency, till, thinking that there was no longer a man who dare call his soul his own, the Traitors thought they could lead the country to the closing scene, "like the lamb that openeth not its mouth." But—

**GOD SAVE IRELAND!**